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account of collateral information as well as the researches at the Desert Laboratory.—HENRY C. COWLES.

Animal galls

A prodigious amount of work is represented by the two ponderous volumes of HOUARD, devoted to the galls, produced by animals, which have been found upon European plants, including those of the Mediterranean basin.⁴ Few botanists, we imagine, are aware of the extent of what now really ranks as a special branch of biological science, cecidology, which has its own journal, *Marcellia*, and is awakening the interest of both botanists and entomologists.

In this monumental work HOUARD describes 6239 zoocecidia, produced by 1466 species of animals, on 2299 species of plants. Of the animal gall-producers the most important are the Insecta, of the families Curculionidae (Coleoptera), Cynipidae (Hymenoptera), Cecidomyiidae and Muscidae (Diptera), Aphididae (Hemiptera), and the Arachnida, of the family Eriophyidae. The Nematodes furnish 16 cecidogena, of the family Anguillulidae; while even Copepoda and Rotifera are represented by one species each. Of the plants 68 are cryptogams, 35 gymnosperms, 173 monocotyls, and 2053 dicotyls.

A large number of the galls are illustrated by original figures and some copies, both external and sectional views being given when necessary to show structure. The part of the plant deformed is indicated; the gall is described tersely, with compact and inconspicuous bibliographical notations; the specific name of the animal responsible for the deformity is given when known, otherwise the best data available; and finally an indication of the geographical distribution is added. There is a full bibliography, arranged alphabetically by authors; an index to the animals named, preceded by a tabular view of the genera, classified by families and orders; and an index of the plants by genera and species.

It is not often one sees a scientific work involving such multifarious detail planned so carefully and carried out so consistently and successfully. Herein the publishers doubtless deserve praise for active cooperation. It would be difficult to find a flaw in either plan or execution.

Since no extensive studies on the cecidia of this country have been made, these volumes, the most thorough, comprehensive, and accurate that have yet appeared in any country, will doubtless serve for many years in the preliminary work that needs to be done on our own galls. They must certainly be most useful, and it is to be hoped that with such a guide, more of our younger biologists will take up the study with vigor.—C. R. B.

A Darwin memorial volume

Among the numerous publications in commemoration of the centenary of the birth of CHARLES DARWIN and of the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of

⁴ HOUARD, C., Les zoocécidies des plantes d'Europe et du bassin de la Méditerranée. 2 vols. 8vo. pp. 1248. figs. 1365. pl. 2. portraits 4. Paris: A. Hermann & Fils. 1909. 45 fr.